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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 002016

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - KYRGYZSTAN REVOLUTION
WOLFOWITZ TO WORLD BANK THE UN - DARFUR
PARIS - FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1](#). KYRGYZSTAN REVOLUTION
- [2](#). WOLFOWITZ TO WORLD BANK
- [3](#). THE UN - DARFUR

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

THE REVOLUTION IN KYRGYZSTAN IS TODAY'S MAJOR FRONT-PAGE STORY. FOR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO IT IS "THE NEW QUIET REVOLUTION;" FOR LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION "PUTIN IS LOSING HIS PALS" AND FOR CATHOLIC LA CROIX IT IS "A NEW REVOLUTION ON RUSSIA'S DOORSTEP." COMMENTATORS APPLAUD THE PEOPLE OF KYRGYZSTAN FOR THEIR "QUIET DEMONSTRATIONS," NOTE "PUTIN'S GRADUAL LOSS OF INFLUENCE IN THE REGION" AND EMPHASIZE WASHINGTON'S ROLE. (SEE PART C)

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE CARRIES AN OP-ED BY UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR CHRISTIAN COMELIAU, TITLED: "WOLFOWITZ, SOMETHING BAD FOR SOMETHING GOOD?" IN ECONOMIC RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS, A COMMENTARY BY PAUL FABRA IS TITLED "HAIL TO WOLFOWITZ!" (SEE PART C)

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO PARIS YESTERDAY, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK IS INTERVIEWED IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO: "THE QUESTION OF LEBANON'S OCCUPATION BY SYRIA LEADS ME TO RETORT THAT PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE SAYING THAT OTHER OCCUPATIONS EXIST: PALESTINE IS OCCUPIED, IRAQ IS OCCUPIED. BUT THESE ARE EXTREMELY COMPLEX ISSUES. IF I SAID WHAT I REALLY THOUGHT, MANY PEOPLE WOULD BECOME ANGRY. THE ELECTIONS IN IRAQ WERE A VERY GOOD THING. BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN A SUCCESS."

THE UN RESOLUTION ON DARFUR, THE LATEST POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN PARIS AND WASHINGTON, IS REPORTED. (SEE PART C)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

KYRGYZSTAN REVOLUTION

"A MUCH SOUGHT-OUT LITTLE COUNTRY"
LORRAINE MILLOT IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (03/25): "A CHOICE MORSEL SHIFTED YESTERDAY ON THE GEO-STRATEGIC CHESSBOARD. THE U.S. SAW IT COMING. SINCE OPENING ITS MILITARY BASE THERE IN 2000, THE U.S. HAS INVESTED MASSIVELY TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN THIS COUNTRY. WITHOUT THE POPULATION'S REBELLION, NOTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. BUT THE EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS OF THE 'REVOLUTION OF THE TULIPS' IS ALSO DUE TO THE LONG DRAWN-OUT PREPARATIONS AND TECHNIQUES WHICH LOOK VERY MUCH LIKE THOSE USED IN GEORGIA AND UKRAINE. THESE THREE REVOLUTIONS HAVE IN COMMON THE FACT THAT THE REGIMES WERE TORN BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW, AND IN EXCHANGE FOR FINANCIAL OFFSETS, THEY ALLOWED THE U.S. TO INOCULATE THE POPULATION WITH A TASTE FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. THE EASE WITH WHICH THE REVOLUTION CAME ABOUT IS A CLEAR WARNING SIGNAL FOR ALL NEIGHBORING DICTATORS. IT IS ALSO A NEW WARNING FOR PUTIN, WHO IS HAUNTED BY THESE POPULAR REBELLIONS IN HIS FORMER EMPIRE."

"INFLUENCE AND OIL IN A MUSLIM LAND"
DOMINIQUE BROMBERGER ON GOVERNMENT-RUN FRANCE INTER (03/25): "THE U.S. EMBASSY (IN KYRGYZISTAN) SUPPORTS THE REVOLUTION. THE RUSSIANS CAN'T HELP BUT SHOW THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT. WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW, WITH BOTH THEIR ARMIES PRESENT, ARE NOW ENGAGED IN A FEROCIOUS WAR OF INFLUENCE, ON CHINA'S BORDER, IN A MUSLIM LAND, IN THE MIDST OF OIL FIELDS WHICH LEAVE NO ONE INDIFFERENT."

WOLFOWITZ TO WORLD BANK

"WOLFOWITZ, SOMETHING BAD FOR SOMETHING GOOD?"
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR CHRISTIAN COMELIAU IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE (03/25): "SHOULD WE BE WORRIED ABOUT WOLFOWITZ'S NOMINATION? OF COURSE, CONSIDERING HIS BACKGROUND. THIS IS A NEW PROVOCATION FROM THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION. WHICH UNDOES THE EFFECTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO EUROPE. ALSO, ONCE AGAIN, IT PROVES FRANCE AND GERMANY'S LACK OF FIGHTING POWER. STILL,

THE PROTEST ARISING FROM NGOS INDICATE A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE INSTITUTION. THE WORLD BANK AND THE IMF HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FINANCING INSTITUTIONS, BUT ALSO PLACES WHERE IDEAS ON HOW TO INFLUENCE ECONOMIES HAVE TAKEN SHAPE. IT IS WITH THIS PERSPECTIVE THAT WE NEED TO LOOK AT WOLFOWITZ'S NOMINATION. HIS PRESIDENCY WILL NOT LEAD TO PROGRESSIVE CHANGES. BUT IT MAY BE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CLARIFICATION. WOLFOWITZ, WHO IS BOTH INTELLIGENT AND BRILLIANT, IS NEITHER A DEMAGOGUE NOR INCLINED TOWARDS COMPLACENCY. HIS CYNICISM AND PRAGMATISM WILL SOON PREVAIL. AND THE WORLD BANK'S IMAGE WILL LOOK LESS PATERNALISTIC AND MORE IN TUNE WITH REALITY."

"HAIL TO WOLFOWITZ!"

PAUL FABRA IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS (03/25): "THE CHOICE OF WOLFOWITZ TO RUN THE WORLD BANK IS REASSURING. WHY SHOULD THE EUROPEANS GET UPSET? BUSH DID NOT MAKE HIS CHOICE IN ORDER TO EXPRESS DISDAIN EITHER FOR THE EUROPEANS OR THE WORLD BANK. HIS DECISION WAS A RATIONAL ONE. IT FITS WITH THE NOTION THAT WASHINGTON IS EAGER TO GIVE A DIFFERENT IMAGE OF ITSELF. WITH THIS GESTURE, PRESIDENT BUSH IS SAYING HE IS TAKING THE WORLD BANK SERIOUSLY. AND SO MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT HIS NOMINATION, THAT WOLFOWITZ WILL THINK TWICE BEFORE TAKING DECISIONS. HIS NOMINATION MAY ALSO INDICATE THAT IT IS THROUGH THIS NEW CHANNEL THAT WASHINGTON EXPECTS TO SCORE IN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND LATIN AMERICA."

THE UN - DARFUR

"PARIS AND WASHINGTON TRY TO AVOID NEW CONFRONTATION"

JEAN-LOUIS TURLIN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (03/25): "THE UNSC HAS MANAGED TO DEFUSE A POTENTIAL DIPLOMATIC BOMB BY POSTPONING THE VOTE ON THE FRENCH RESOLUTION ON CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN DARFUR. THE U.S. WILL NOT HAVE TO IMMEDIATELY CHOOSE BETWEEN A VETO AND ABSTENTION."

"FRANCE AND U.S. OPPOSE EACH OTHER OVER DARFUR"

FABRICE ROUSSELOT IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (03/25): "IN SPITE OF WEEKS NEGOTIATING, WASHINGTON AND PARIS HAVE NOT MANAGED TO AGREE ON A COMPROMISE OVER TRYING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN DARFUR. WASHINGTON HAS REITERATED ITS INTENTION OF OPPOSING THE FRENCH POSITION AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMES COURT, WHICH IS NOT RECOGNIZED BY WASHINGTON. THE U.S. IS FACING A DILEMMA: TO ABSTAIN MEANS A DE-FACTO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE COURT; TO USE ITS VETO POWER MEANS OPENING OLD WOUNDS. APPARENTLY, 'HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS' ARE UNDERWAY BETWEEN PARIS AND WASHINGTON." WOLFF